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January 25, 2005

CITIZENS TIP V CORPS, IRAQI TROOPS TO WEAPONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CACHED TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

KAN'AN, Iraq -- Information from citizens here recently led Soldiers from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division and their Iraqi Army counterparts to weapons believed to be intended for use by anti-Iraqi forces to disrupt the nation's upcoming elections.

On January 12, leaders from Bravo Company of the 213th Iraqi Army Battalion approached the commander of Charlie Company of the corps' Task Force 82nd Engineers, 1st Infantry Division, Capt. Scott L. Holland, Jr., with intelligence indicating that a small weapons cache had been placed here the previous night.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Soldiers from Task Force 82nd Engineers of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division discuss the search for a weapons cache in Kan'an, Iraq with area residents. A joint search by the troops in concert with their counterparts from the 213th Iraqi Army Battalion turned up a small cache in a nearby field. The weapons are suspected to have been cached for use by anti-Iraqi forces in disrupting the nation's upcoming elections.

While palm groves and darkness provided cover for the cache operation, local residents spotted the suspicious activity and reported it to Iraqi security forces. Based on the suspected location and the covert

nature of the activity, Iraqi Army leaders took immediate action and requested support from coalition forces.

Supported by Charlie Company Soldiers, Iraqi Army forces conducted a cordon and search of the houses in the area and the surrounding fields.

The building searches did not produce any results. However, after further searching Iraqi troops found evidence of a hidden cache partially concealed by palm groves in a nearby field. A joint sweep of the area uncovered two 80mm mortar rounds concealed in some bushes.

Despite the small size of the cache, coalition forces said the operation demonstrated a much larger success, as Iraqi citizens are now volunteering more information that is severely hindering anti-Iraqi forces' movements and operations and helping ensure the nation's elections proceed as scheduled.

